

Biography of Heroes & Heroines

Activity Objectives

- To recognize the names of persons who have made major aviation contributions
- To see examples of success coming from hard work (try, try and try again)
- To see examples where progress or improvements often involves numerous trials and errors
- To have students practice research skills
- To have students practice reading and writing skills

Materials

- ✓ Research materials
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Pencil

Instructions

Direct the students' thoughts to facts about themselves by asking questions such as:

- What is your name and age?
- When and where were you born?
- What are the names of your family members?
- What thing do you like to do most?

Introduce a planned writing outline. Write an outline on the board such as the following:

Important Facts about Yourself

- Your name
- Your age
- One thing you like to do

Your Own History

- Where you were born
- Date of your birth
- Other places you have lived

Introduce Your Family

- Give parents' names
- Tell names of brothers and sisters
- Mention other relatives or pets

Inform students that the outline will be used to write a story about themselves. After studying the outline, ask students to copy the outline from the board. Have students write simple sentences for each outline item. Have students read their personal stories to the class.

Explain to the students that stories about a person's life are called biographies. Tell the students they are going to develop a planned outline for writing biographies of famous aviation and space personalities. Ask that they use at least three major headings with at least two subheadings under each. Ask students to consider the following questions as they develop their outlines:

- When and where was the personality born?
- How old would this person be today?
- What did this person's parents do?
- Did this person's parents have an effect on his/her life?
- How and where did this person learn to fly?
- What great contributions did this person make to aviation or space?
- What kind of failures did this person experience?

Ask students to use their planned outline to write a biography about their favorite aviation or space hero or heroine. A suggested list of aviation and space heroes and heroines are:

- ✓ Neil Armstrong
- ✓ Guion Bluford, Jr.
- ✓ Bessie Coleman
- ✓ Amelia Earhart
- ✓ John Glenn
- ✓ Robert Goddard
- ✓ Mae Jemison
- ✓ Charles Lindbergh
- ✓ Christa McAuliffe
- ✓ Ronald McNair
- ✓ Sally Ride
- ✓ Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger
- ✓ Chuck Yeager
- ✓ Orville and Wilbur Wright

Extension

Develop an aviation and space hero/heroine bulletin board. Display students' biographies of famous aviation and space heroes/heroines. Ask students to develop drawings that depict accomplishments that made each hero/heroine famous.

Divide the class into six groups. Ask each group to select a famous aviation or space hero/heroine. Tell them to brainstorm and develop a creative presentation (show and tell, picture presentation, or play) as a way to inform the class about their selected personality.